



**Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities Annual Awards
2016 Nomination Form**

These awards are given annually by the Mayor-President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities and are intended to recognize individuals/entities in our community who are improving the lives of those in our community living with disabilities. All nominees must either be living in or working within Lafayette Parish to be eligible. The winners will be notified on/around October 1st, and the awards ceremony will be held in October (specific date to be announced). **All nominations are due Friday, September 2, 2016.** If possible, please send a digital photo of the nominee with this application. Thank you for taking the time to complete this nomination.

Nominee Information (the person who, if selected, will receive the award):

Name:			
Mailing Address:			
Email address:			
Preferred contact number:			
Is the nominee aware of this nomination? (please check)	Yes	No	

Please check which award(s) for which you would like to nominate this individual/organization. You may choose more than one category. For a description of each award, refer to page 2 of this application.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Distinguished Merit Award	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outstanding Individual with a Disability Award
<input type="checkbox"/>	Educator of the Year Award	<input type="checkbox"/>	Service Animal of the Year Award
<input type="checkbox"/>	Employer of the Year Award	<input type="checkbox"/>	Veteran of the Year Award
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family of the Year Award	<input type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer of the Year Award
<input type="checkbox"/>	Media Award	<input type="checkbox"/>	Youth of the Year Award
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outstanding Direct Support Professional Award	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Vickie Nettles Advocacy Award

Please answer the questions. You may use as much space as necessary (including adding additional pages as needed).

- 1) How does the nominee inspire you?

2) How does the nominee exemplify the category (or categories) he/she was nominated for?

3) What else should the committee know in choosing the recipient of this award?

Nominator Information (the person completing this application):

Name:	
Relationship	
Mailing Address:	
Email address:	
Preferred contact number:	

Please submit this application by **Friday, September 2, 2016** to Debbie Aymond. Applications can be submitted via mail or email. Mailed applications should be **received no later than September 2** and may not be considered if received later.

Debbie Aymond
Regional Manager
Louisiana Rehabilitation Services
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Lafayette, LA 70508-4284
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Award Descriptions

Distinguished Merit Award

This award is given in public recognition of extraordinary service by an individual, organization, or agency working in the disability field that has substantially advanced opportunities in Lafayette Parish for persons with disabilities to utilize their capabilities in achieving full participation in society.

Educator of the Year Award

The Educator of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding individual who has contributed significantly in educating persons with disabilities in our community.

Employer of the Year Award

The Employer of the Year Award is given in public recognition of a company or organization that actively recruits, hires, and accommodates employees with disabilities. The company must operate or be located in Lafayette Parish or employ a large percentage of Lafayette Parish citizens with disabilities if outside of the parish limits.

Family of the Year Award

The Family of the Year Award is given in recognition of a family who has a member, or members, with disabilities and who, by involvement in the community and mutual support of one another, are an example of courage, strength, and unity for other families in Louisiana. Both traditional and non-traditional families can be considered.

Media Award

The Media Award is given in public recognition of outstanding coverage of concern and issues relevant to persons with disabilities. Radio, television, and/or print nominees serving Lafayette Parish are welcome. Media projects should include coverage of the accomplishments of people with disabilities, their families, advocates helping in crisis situations, special projects, or other news worthy events regarding disability issues.

Outstanding Direct Support Professional Award

The Direct Support Professional at times is the most important person in the life of an individual with severe disabilities. It is the person who makes it possible to start the day and to go to bed at night. It is also the person who enables the individual to participate in a quality of life within the world. This person does not just help their client with the basic physical and medical needs but provides them with a caring, understanding, compassionate, stable relationship that enhances the dignity, integrity, and total well-being of the person with disabilities they serve. The Direct Support Professional must live or work in Lafayette Parish.

Outstanding Individual with a Disability Award

The Outstanding Individual with a Disability Award is given in recognition of a person with a disability in Lafayette Parish who has provided encouragement and inspiration to others and has advanced opportunities for persons with disabilities in our community.

Service Animal of the Year Award

The Service Animal of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding animal that assists people with disabilities with some of the function and tasks that the individual cannot perform as a result of their disability.

Veteran of the Year Award

The Veteran of the Year Award recognizes a veteran with a disability who has served honorably in the United States Armed Forces and has a record of exemplary services within the disabled community.

Volunteer of the Year Award

The Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes extraordinary service by a volunteer who has substantially enhanced the opportunities in Lafayette Parish for persons with disabilities to use their skills and develop their potential as members of society.

Youth of the Year Award

The Youth of the Year Award is given in recognition of a young person between 13-19 years of age with a disability in Lafayette Parish who has, by example of achievement, provided encouragement and inspiration to others.

The Vickie Nettles Advocacy Award

Vickie Nettles was exactly the advocate that all advocates should want to emulate. Determined and successful, well-known and well-respected—her sheer will made people know her and know her cause. This award is given to an individual or group who embodies the spirit and dedication of Vickie Nettles. It recognizes excellence in advocacy and determination in making our community a better place for those living with disabilities. This award winner must live or work in Lafayette Parish.